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Living Costs Drop, Claims Labor Bureau

Living costs here now reportedly are lower than they have been at any time during the past year.

Prices for almost every basic food, and for house furnishings and clothing are said to be decreasing steadily.

According to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the retail price index here is the lowest it has been since June, 1948.

The price of bacon declined 6.9 per cent during May as compared with the price in April. Butter was down 2.8 per cent; lettuce, 52.9 per cent; canned peaches, 3.9 per cent; and potatoes, 8.4 per cent.

The prices of round steak and pork chops rose; but in general food costs were down 1.6 per cent.

According to chain stores, the sharpest decrease was in fruit and vegetables, the prices of which declined on the average by 4.8 per cent.

Green beans, which were 39 cents a pound in April have dropped to nine cents; cucumbers from 23 to four cents a pound; cabbage from 10 to two cents a pound; and tomatoes from 25 to 10 cents a pound. Lard dropped from 19 to 17½ cents a pound.

Further reductions in the price of oranges and certain cuts of meat are expected.

Judge Says Cities May Not License Keno-Skill Game

Bingo, Keno and allied games are gambling and lotteries, and may not be licensed by individual cities, Superior Judge John J. Ford ruled recently in Long Beach.

The ruling came as part of the court's denial of a permanent injunction sought by Todd C. "Kid Mexico" Faulkner, operator of a "Keno Quiz" parlor in Signal Hill, to restrain police in that community from closing his game.

Judge Ford asserted in his decision that cities may not override the State Penal Code section outlawing such games by granting licenses to operators of Bingo or Keno establishments.

Attorneys for Faulkner said they will appeal the ruling.

The Torrance City Council on June 21 denied the local VFW Post a permit to operate a Keno-Skill-Quiz game here.



SUMMER FUN . . . Lining the shores of Alondra Lake (upper photo) is part of the crowd of 5000 youngsters who participated in the Third Annual Huck Finn Fishing Derby at the near-by lake last Saturday. In the lower photo, Marge Lomsdale, county playground director tells Jack Van his fish is the biggest caught in the all-day derby—but that it didn't count. Somebody gave it to him, he said. Jack won an award for honesty.—Herald photos.

RESTAURANT, TWO OTHER FIRMS JOIN TORRANCE C. OF C.

To the rolls of the Torrance Chamber of Commerce this week were added three new memberships, announced Mrs. Bertha Hedberg, assistant secretary. They are:

Bernice Stark, manager Smith Brothers "Fish Shanty," 4024 Pacific Coast Highway, Waltham.
 J. Z. Bernard, and A. Katz, Western Roy Allan Corp., 20350 South Normandie avenue.

Ernest Harvey, Harvey Machine Co. Inc., 19200 South Western avenue.

Young Lad Gives Away Prize Winning Catch

Some young Torrance fisherlad who took part in the Huck Finn Fishing Derby at Alondra Lake last Saturday is likely to be a mighty heartick lad if he reads this.

The fish he caught and gave away was the biggest landed during the derby.

According to young Jack Van, 17016 Ardath avenue, an unknown benefactor gave him a fish that he had caught during the official time-limit trials and then walked off. Van, curious as to the fish's weight and length discovered it was the longest—10½ inches, and the heaviest—12 ounces, of all the fish caught during the derby. It would have taken the prize.

For his honesty in telling Marge Lomsdale, comely playground director at Lomita Park and one of the supervisors of the fishing derby, that the fish was not legally the fruits of his efforts he received an award for honesty. Probably this is one of the first such awards ever to be handed out to a fisherman. Rena Jalo, 13 of 3745 West 171 Street won the senior division costume parade.

TRAILERS MUST BEAR LICENSES

House trailers or trailer coaches must bear 1949 license plates if they are parked in a public trailer camp, reminded A. H. Henderson, director of the State Department of Motor Vehicles.

While it is unusual that a vehicle which has not operated in 1949 must bear 1949 plates, nevertheless such is the case for house trailer parked in public trailer camps under a section of the Health and Safety Code, according to Henderson.

On the subject of house trailers, Henderson also pointed out that they must be equipped with adequate brakes controlled by the driver in the towing vehicle, if they weigh over 1500 pounds unladen.

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